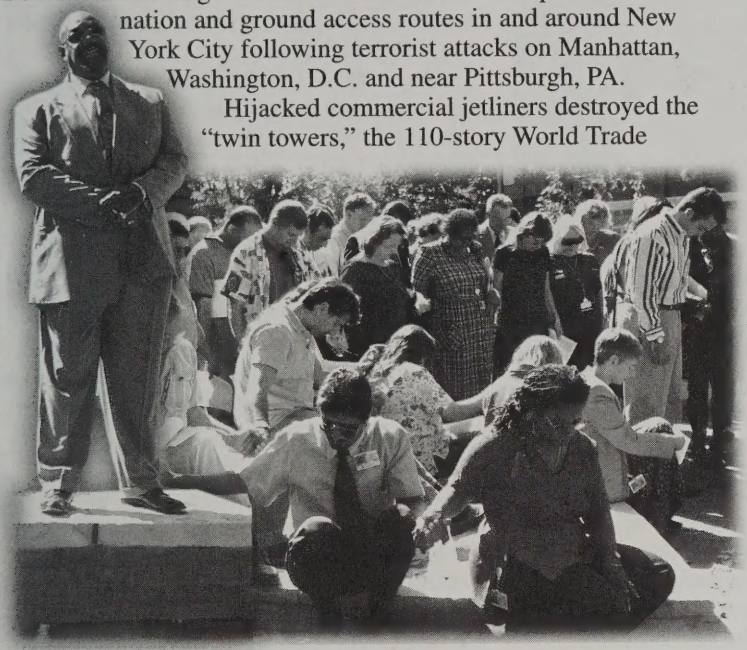
Transporter
Vol. 35 No.7 October 2001

NJDOT helps recovery from attack

On September 11, 2001, during the morning rush hour, transportation stopped in the New Jersey/New York area. Federal and local governments shut down all air space in the nation and ground access routes in and around New York City following terrorist attacks on Manhattan, Washington, D.C. and near Pittsburgh, PA.

Hijacked commercial jetliners destroyed the "twin towers," the 110-story World Trade Center, home of sister agency Port Authority of New York & New Jersey (PANY&NJ), and the Pentagon. Damage was greater than the eruption of Mt. St. Helens in Washington, and cost many more lives — 6,000 at this printing — than the bombing of Pearl Harbor in 1941. As much of the nation bore witness to one of America's darkest days, other folks — police, firefighters, emergency medical workers and NJDOTers — spun into action.



On September 17, 2001 more than 200 NJDOT employees gathered at the Employee Memorial to sing and pray for the victims of the terrorist attack on the United States. INSET: Moved by the outpouring of love from NJDOT employees for those who suffered in any way or perished in the terrorist attack, Reverend Thomas Johnson leads prayers to heal the hurt from the terror and ask forgiveness for our enemies. Johnson, a Regional Manager with NJDOT Community Relations, is an ordained minister.

Commissioner James Weinstein worked behind the scenes with the Governor's Office, Acting Governor Donald T. DiFrancesco and Lewis Eisenberg, Chairman of the Port Authority of New York & New Jersey. Neil Levin, PANY&NJ Executive Director perished in the attack.

Weinstein's words to employees were clear:

"In the weeks to come, we will be called upon for help in many different ways. Let me stress that this is not business as usual. We need to be understanding, creative and cooperative in responding to this crisis. We must provide the best response possible to our neighbors in need.

"These events have been a shock to everyone. It is critical in this troubled time that we support each other as co-workers and as friends. Despite the anger and frustration that we all share toward this incident, it is critical that we respect each other and the diversity that makes this Department what it is. As I already know, there's no better place to turn in a crisis than the New Jersey Department of Transportation. May God bless us all."

Editor's note: The November/December issue of the *Transporter* will report more fully on specific actions of NJDOTers who helped in the aftermath of the attack.

Motorists don't miss a beat on the new I-80 bridge

At 1:30 a.m. on September 9, without fanfare, NJDOT opened a new four-lane bridge on I-80 westbound in Denville. Shortly after, traffic started moving at 65 mph through the area, a change from the traffic jams of the previous 11 weeks.

The long, hot summer began on June 22 just before the morning rush hour when a fiery multi-truck accident destroyed the original bridge beams and deck. Damage cost estimates were in excess of $6 million.

Hundreds of NJDOT employees and contractors were mobilized immediately to detour traffic and begin repairs to the

Continued on page 2

This *Star-Ledger* photo shows the enormity of the June 22 crash as emergency personnel view the wreckage and cargo of two tractor-trailers on I-80 in Denville.

Motorists don't miss a beat Continued from front page

bridge. Within days NJDOT installed a temporary bridge so motorists wouldn't be cut off from traveling on I-80.

"Putting up the temporary bridge was a huge project," said Assistant Commissioner **Rod Roberson**. "And the last weekend before it came down was the most hectic," he said.

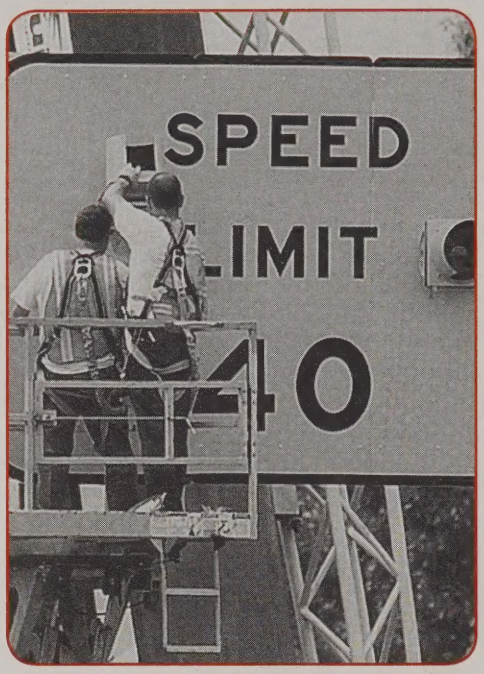
"We closed the temporary bridge on Friday night. Crews worked around the clock from Friday to early Sunday to remove it. Everything we did this summer was the groundwork that made this weekend's re-opening possible."

Department staff moved the project in precisely orchestrated steps to keep traffic moving on the I-80 westbound span. This gave motorists the direction they needed to avoid confusion and congestion and allowed adequate work space for construction.

NJDOT crews fabricated and installed more than 100 signs, a recommendation of Principal Traffic Engineer **Denis Motiani** of Region North.

"We needed rerouting signs, for example from I-280, 287 and 80 to Route 46, to guide motorists in another direction," said Motiani.

"At the Headquarters Sign Shop, **Reid Bryant's** crew (5500) and **Vince Gervasoni's** crew (5100) fabricated and installed signs of all sizes including reduced speed limit signs with flashers and overhead directional signs. Crews 245 and 246 installed the smaller signs.



Region North's Kevin DeMatteo and Bill Swiss of the Stanhope Electrical Yard adjust the flashing lights on one of the reduced speed limit signs by I-80 Exit 39.

"Then road markings had to be changed. Lights were retimed on Routes 46 and 10. **Bruce Wilson's** electrical crew from Region North took care of that job."

Construction crews made minor concrete repairs, prepared abutments to receive the new beams, then installed the beams in July and August. At the end of August, crews poured the new deck and jacked the bridge deck into place. NJDOT built the new bridge under the temporary structure.

"That's never been done before," said Roberson. "Usually we pour concrete for half the deck, detour all the traffic, then pour the other half. The way we did it this time was very creative."

On September 8, NJDOT closed the westbound lanes from Parsippany to Denville to allow crews to remove the temporary bridge, using a crane, take it apart and truck it away.

One of the most difficult and time-consuming jobs was removing the ramps to the temporary bridge — 8,000 tons of asphalt — and milling it into small pieces. Jersey barriers were removed. And, of course the detour signs had to come down.

"We spent three days taking down these signs. It felt good putting up Exit 39 signs again," said Motiani. "We repainted the roadway too."

Editor's note: This article supplements the original report in the June/July *Transporter* about the destruction of the I-80 bridge and chronicles the events leading to the bridge's reopening on September 9. The enclosed insert lists the hundreds of NJDOT employees involved in this effort.

Milestones

Moving up

Director **James Paral** of Traffic Engineering and Safety recently announced the appointment of **Patricia A. Ott** to the position of Manager 1 in Traffic Engineering and Investigations. Ott formerly was Manager 2 in Traffic Operations North, Mt. Arlington.

New in Human Resources

William Bennett has been appointed to the position of Manager of the new Bureau of Employee Development, responsible for the PAR, state awards and employee career counseling programs.

Filling Bennett's former position of Manager of Training and Organizational Development is **Dr. Ernest "Bub" Kovacs**, formerly in charge of CPM's training program.

New to NJDOT is **Rudene L. Vaught**, who left her position as Manager of Human Resources with the Department of Labor to accept the challenge of Manager of Succession Planning and Baldrige Assessment.

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People Briefs

Retirees

August 2001

John Goulding, after 38 years, Sr. Engineer Materials, Operations; **Harold Ellingham**, after 33 years, Engineering Technician 3, CPM; **Yvonne Saintus**, after 20 years, Customer Service Information Specialist 2, MVS; and **Robert Hardison**, after 13 years, Construction & Maintenance Technician 3, Operations.

October 2001

Frank Battaglia, after 41 years, Sr. Executive Supervisor, Operations; **Glenn Falcey**, after 31 years, Project Manager, CPM; **Betty McKithen**, after 31 years, Supervisor 1, MVS; **Norman Comfort**, after 29 years, Construction & Maintenance Technician 1, Operations; **Curtis Mason**, after 26 years, Highway Construction & Bridge Repairer 1, Operations; **Hewlings Lamson**, after 25 years, Area Supervisor Highway Maintenance, Operations; and **Rosalie Niemczyk**, after 17 years, Supervisor 3, MVS.

Blue Ribbons

Central clears the way

New Ewing resident Christine Wetzel praised the quick response of Crew Supervisor **Jeff Maier** and Assistant Crew Supervisor **James Dauphars** of Central Region to her complaint of a sight hazard on her property on Route 29. They immediately removed the source of her blocked view so she could safely use her driveway.

Angelo and Patricia Deo of Warren commended Supervisor **Jeffrey Prokolyshen**, Crew 319 Assistant Supervisor **Herman Riley** and Crew 319 Maintenance Workers **Rick Gunsett**, **Robert Monto**, **Greg Ross**, **Gary Stecker**, **Robert Taynor** and **Michael Yaple** for the tree removal on I-78 near their property.

Parker unties traffic

On a hot August morning during rush hour on Route 9, one of the most traveled roads in New Jersey, Central Region's Principal Engineer **Robert Parker** moved a disabled vehicle from the northbound fast lane to the side of the road so the traffic flow would continue.

"He avoided what could have been a major backup within a few seconds," said Secretarial Assistant 1 **Cynthia Price**, also of Central Region, who witnessed Parker's "blue ribbon" behavior on her way to work.

Central Region cements ties with municipality

Lavallette Councilwoman Anita Zalom expressed her thanks for the quick response of Central Region to a drainage problem on Route 35. Regional Maintenance Engineer **Eugene Shoup**, Truck Driver **Susan Fenton** of Crew 320, Principal Environmental Engineer **Dennis Diehl** and Environmental Specialist **Bernard Michaeli** solved the problem within two days after Zalom called.

Central Crews help clean up

Principal Environmental Technician **Joseph Mason** of the Bureau of Project Support praised the assistance from Central Region crew members during a spill cleanup on Route 1 in August.

Commended for keeping the traffic moving while the cleanup began were, from Crew 315: Supervisor **Leo Eagleton**, Equipment Operator **Chris Martin**, Maintenance Workers 1 **Barry Schutts**, **Matt Bade** and **Eric Hunt**; from Crew 327: Assistant Crew Supervisor **Paul Lechmanick** and Maintenance Worker 1 **Dale Deluca**; Assistant Crew 369 Supervisor **Louis Cortina**, and Truck Driver **Joseph Lifrieri** from Crew 317.

Obituaries

Retired MVS employee **Doris Ganie-Billingsley** died August 25 in Trenton. Survivors include her daughter Antoinette Ganie, her stepdaughters Gail Daniels, Frances Billingsley and Beverly Clark, a sister Alice Ganie and grandchildren.

Former MVS employee **Joseph F. Hubbs** died August 28 in Hamilton. The Army Air Force veteran of World War II is survived by his brother Russell, and his sister Mildred.

Former MVS employee **Madeline M. Marcello** died August 28 in Hamilton. Survivors include her sons Salvatore and Vincent, her brothers Pascale and Nicholas Avanzato, and grandchildren.

Former NJDOT employee **Elizabeth Ann Stokes West** died September 4 in Ewing. Survivors include her husband Isaac, daughters Tonya Renee Brown, Dodi Price and Joy Carine, and grandchildren.

Retired Project Engineer **Bonnie Grace Carter** of the Division of Transportation Systems Planning died September 5 in Trenton. Survivors include her mother Loretta Fisher and her brother Ricky.

Retired MVS employee **Helene M. Kondash** died September 9 in Hamilton. Survivors include her mother Helen Schaffer, sons MVS employee Bernard, and Eric.

Donald W. Fell, former MVS employee, died September 21 in Trenton. Survivors include his wife Joan, daughters Karen and Lisa, his sister Susanne Teschke and grandchildren.

Retired NJDOT Chief Traffic Investigator **C. Bud Carnevale** died September 22 in Hamilton. The Coast Guard veteran of World War II is survived by his wife Thelma, daughters Lynda Fejko, and Michele, son Michael J., grandchildren and great-grandchildren .

Army veteran of World War II **John Skirzynski** died September 22 in Trenton. The retired NJDOT electrician is survived by his brother Steve and a sister Helen.

NJDOT Project Manager **Gerald Bridges Jr.** died September 24 in Marlton. Survivors include his wife Nancy, his daughter Nicole and his mother Bette.

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Regions capture Salt Institute awards

While Central Region received a repeat award for environmental excellence in salt storage, the Salt Institute selected seven yards in Region South for first-time "Excellence in Storage" awards during the September Public Works Congress in Philadelphia.

Regional Maintenance Engineer **Richard Balgowan** knew Region South had a good salt storage program at their maintenance yards and didn't hesitate to get the award application process rolling. Principal Engineer **Maris Larmanis**, Assistant Engineer **Todd Kropilak** and Assistant Engineer **Ashwin Shah** prepared the packages for the Institute.

Successful applicants meet rigorous standards which include employee safety programs, proper facility housekeeping measures and protection from rain and snow.

As the awards were presented, Public Policy Director Andrew C. Briscoe of the Salt Institute remarked, "Winners exemplify state-of-the-art commitment to environmental and worker protection."

(Left) Central Region's Eugene Shoup, John Bello and Kevin Britton accept the Salt Institute Award for the Lakewood salt storage unit the second year in a row from Richard Hanneman, President of the Institute. The program was cited as a "model for your neighbors in New Jersey and throughout the snowbelt regions of the world." Not pictured are Paul Lechmanic, Richard Tilton, John Carrington, Michael Cardinale, James Nunn, Michael Kirwan and Andrew Dill and Dale Delucca. (Above) Accepting Salt Institute awards for their units are South Region's Frank Battaglia, Don Bourne, West Deptford Yard; Pete Celentano, Glassboro Yard; John Camillo, Cumberland Yard; Warren Cook, Elmer and Cumberland County Yards; Robert Carr, Red Lion Yard; Robert Schiavone, Mount Laurel Yard and Richard Hanneman, Salt Institute. Not present were Ken Muff and Dave Pusey.

In Recognition of NJDOT Employees Who Worked On The I-80 Project From Beginning To End

Leonard Ahem, John Allshouse, Joseph Andrisano, Nicholas Angelico, Howard Apgar, Jose Arroyo, Irv Austell, Josiah Austin, Attilio Avino, Salim Baig, Ralph Baliunas, Harold Banks, Kevin Bannon, James Barclay, Celester Barnes, Michael Barrick, Charles Bassano, Jorge Batista, Ronald Beam, Joseph Beke, Paul Belcher, Layton Bergman, Tony Berry, Anthony Biasi, Stephen Bock, Roy Boggan, Douglas Brarens, LaShawn Brice, William Brown, Louis Bruno, Reid Bryant, Walter Bulat, John Butkus, Jr., Michael Byer, Gage Caldwell, Jeffrey Callahan, Harry Capers, Michael Carlino, Luis Casalduc, Jr., John Casella, Frank Castellucci, Artemio Chavez, Chris Chestnut, Richard Christensen, II Pyong Chun, Brian Conner, Alan Constantine, James Cornick, Ryan Cox, John Cronce, Antonio Cruz, Bradley Dailey, Thomas Dapkiewicz, Michael Davis, William Davis, Mike DeBonis, Thomas DeBosh, Mark DeFuria, Harry DeLorenzo, John Delucca, Kevin DeMatteo, Michael DeVita, Hugo Dezio, Jr., Dennis Diehl, John Dimino, Anticious Dixon, Louis Dota, Anthony Estrada, Richard Eva, Karam Faddoul, Edward Farrell, Edward Feller, Robert Flanagan, Joseph Floridia, Arleigh Freeborn, Albert Gallagher, John Garzio, Sylvester Gaskinn, Brian Geimer, Nicholas Gephart, Joanne Gerbino, Eddy Germain, Vincent Gervasoni, Ahmad Ghorbani, Allen Goble, Raphael Gomez, Walwyn Gordon, Harry Greehalgh, Reynaldo Gulin, William Gulino, Vincent Hagen, Michael Hanley, Bryan Hanson, David Hart, William Hayden, Rowan Hector, Daniel Hendershot, Garfield Henriques, Scott Hergert, Rochell Hinton, Mary Holmes, Gerald Holzschuth, Gregory Homa, Richard Honeycut, Constanci House, Ricky House, John Howell, Joseph Hughes, Larry Hunt, Melvin Hunter, Mohammed Hussein, Charles Isiadinso, Kevin Isler, Tim Ismailvoski, Dean Jack, Robert Jackson, Steve Jarosz, Leonard James, Adrian Jarrett, Andris Jumikis, Raymond Kauffman, Butch Keggan, Kenneth Keyworth, Mujahid Khan, Kevin Kilmurray, William Kilmurray, Anthony Kirksey, Mark Kleckner, Robert Klinger, Thomas Koch, Edward Kuri, Michael LaPadula, Henry Lasenberry, Robert Lipane, Richard Little, George Logeman, Robert Lorenzo, Walter Lynch III, Chester Lyszczek, William Lytch, Daniel Mabie, Gerald Magner, Thomas Maisto, Anthony Manley, Hiram Manning, Jack Mansfield, Aram Mardekian, Moises Martinez, Wayne Mayers, Greg McMahon, Rafael Mendez, Thomas Merchak, Joseph Merlo, Kenneth Mihalic, Derek Milik, William Miranda, Michael Morreale, Christian Morris, Egbert Morris, Dhanesh Motiani, Kenneth Muff, Kenneth Myers, Atta Najim, Shannon Nammey, James Newton, Thomas Noel, James Newton, Dariusz Organowski, Thomas Otter, Ronald Owens, Francisco Palang, Michael Palkowitz, Jay Paolella, Mazur Paroyla, Charles Parizeau, Sung Park, Himanshu Patel, John Pezik, Michael Pilsbury, Michael Polding, Joseph Popelka, John Post, Angel Prieto, Fred Quick, Brit Ramsey, John Rainiero, Jeffrey Reliford, Gregory Renman, Douglas Ribot, Vidal Rodriquez, Robert Rogers, William Rollack, Angel Rosa, Ronald Rosato, Junior Royes, Gregory Rue, James Rush, Alvin Ruth, Robert Sauber, Anthony Scerbo, Lewis Scott, Richard Sentak, Steven Shaver, Richard Shaw, Scott Sheldon, Gordon Shelton, Richard Smetanka, Duane Smith, Gary Smith, Shazaliza Smith, Wayne Smith, William Smith, Steve Smolinski, Ronald Sperry, David Sprague, Charles Stack, Arnold Staples, Sean Starkey, Daniel Stevens, John F. Stevens, John M. Stevens, William Stevens, John Stillitano, Henry Stillwell, Joseph Stoerzinger, Steven Stoll, Paul Stracker, Robert Sudol, William Swiss, Orest Szcewciw, Paul Tarsitano, Anthony Testa, Max Thomas, John Toscani, Michael Unangst, Edward Vandewal, Stanley Vann, Pat Walker, Michael Ward, Paul West, Bruce White, Maurice White, Bruce Wilson, Ronald Wright, Victoria Young, Jack Zanin, and Michael Zeleznock

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